

Appl. No. 10/567,597
Amdt. Dated June 4, 2008
Reply to final Office Action of March 12, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 13: canceled

14. (currently amended) A steering mechanism comprising:

a housing;

a rack, which defines an axial direction and meshes with a pinion; and

a hydraulic servo-drive having a piston/cylinder unit comprising a cylinder, a piston, and a piston rod that extends in said axial direction, wherein said rack and said piston rod are parallel to one another in said axial direction and are spaced from one another in a direction transverse to said axial direction, ~~and~~ wherein the rack is fixedly connected to the cylinder in the axial direction, and wherein a modular rotary slide valve is eccentrically secured to a frame that carries said steering mechanism.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein free ends of said rack are encased by sleeves that enclose and outwardly seal a movement space of said rack.

19. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein free ends of said rack are encased by sliding sleeves or bellows that are adapted to free a space that is disposed axially adjacent to said rack.

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)